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Pickings & Peckings

Park Department Facts and Figures

Floral Association *and the* Fleet

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The California Garden

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GOOD ROADS A NECESSITY

EVERY organization or publication which has, for part of its reason for being a real abiding concern for the upbuilding and maintenance of a progressive community, should be interested in the subject of good roads.

The state of California has voted 40,000,000 dollars for paved highways, and the taxpayers of this county are going to be asked to vote $2,500,000 more, one-sixteenth of what our entire state has appropriated. It is apparent to almost anyone that good highways are an absolute necessity, and judging by the amount of money spent by different counties even before the state appropriation was voted, the trend is towards paved highways. Obviously, for the taxpayers to receive the maximum return from their investment—and an investment it surely is—the surveys and construction work must be done by experts, and the highways built where they are most needed.

One of our county supervisors grew a bit caustic the other day in discussing certain roads that were built some years ago. He observed sagely that because a man was a good lawyer, doctor or even a good politician, it was no reason for entrusting the matter of road construction to his tender mercies. One would not employ a blacksmith to repair a watch. He cited history on this particular piece of highway, to the effect that the road had been surveyed nine times, adding that if the surveyors had used green stakes (cottonwood perhaps), there would have been a forest there by now.

Proper surveys can oftentimes save thousands of dollars in construction work, to say nothing of the saving on mileage costs to automobiles and other vehicles by elimination of oversteep grades, etc.

In the meantime, keep the highways we have busy. Use them on holidays and on business trips, particularly the former. It will be, we venture to say, a revelation to most of the residents of San Diego County to see what it holds in the way of pleasant places to go to. There are out-door pleasures to be had to please most tastes. **Use your roads,** and when you come back, write to The Garden and tell what you saw.

THAT BOTANICAL GARDEN

The question of a scientific botanical garden to be established in Balboa Park under the auspices of the Floral Association has again begun to show signs of life.

It would seem as if it were quite within the province of the Association to promote such a scheme. Our idea of a suitable garden of this sort would be a strictly scientific garden for purposes of study. The planting could, perhaps, be arranged for convenience so that species of the same genera would be grouped together, with similar kinds of each species also grouped. For instance, if it were the genus **Ficus,** it would be more suitable to have types like F. pandurata grouped with F. macrophylla and F. repens with F. radicans. Labels bearing both scientific and common names **correctly spelled,** habitat, family, a word or two as to habit, color of flower and uses would be indispensable to make such a collection usable. A "directory" might even be arranged, indicating by plot or row numbers where a given genus or species might be found.

There is one very important consideration, however, and that is that it would be far, far better to commence with a very modest collection indeed, and be sure that the Association had funds sufficient to keep it well cared for, than to lay out an extensive affair which would become a white elephant, or might have to be abandoned altogether later on.

Pickings and Peckings

By THE EARLY BIRD

I AM a Saturday Evening Post fiend and glory in it, not confining my seances to secret sessions, and when I saw that Colonel Watterson had been persuaded to reminisce I knew it was only a matter of a short time before I should be expected to delve into the past of The California Garden. Don't misunderstand me, I am not admitting that the genial Colonel is in my class. He never would have stuck ten years to his Kentucky paper if the paper had not stuck better to him than the Garden did to me. This is merely to explain in my usual roundabout way that I have been asked to make a hash, or resurrection pie, as we called it at school, of the ten years of The Garden's existence.

In the first place it should be added to the miracles of the ages that The Garden has had a ten years' life, but the fact has to be mentioned because it indubitably clinches its right to have lived and to live.

In the first number published, July, 1909, it gives as the object of its being: "It is the official organ of The San Diego Floral Association, the objects of which are all towards a more beautiful city, a city of gardens, taking advantage of its wonderful climatic conditions and realizing some part of its possibilities floriculturally. In addition to faithfully recording the doings of the association, it proposes to give practical and timely information with regard to the flower garden and the vegetable patch."

Who dare say it has not fulfilled its pledge? If any one has imbibed and digested its ten volumes, that one is capable of running a garden in San Diego even under the peculiar conditions that a love of smokestacks and a water conservation policy may create.

Miss Sessions and Benard were the only ones who boldly signed their communications in that first small sumber, but it evidently met with much encouragement, for number two had as a cover a beautiful poppy design by A. R. Valentien. It had a full page halftone of fern and begonia, and G. P. Hall and Charles Cristadoro, both gone home now, joined its volunteer staff and two pages of ads arrived and, by the way, of the advertisers, the Harris Seed Co., Southern Trust and Savings Bank, now Southern Trust and Commerce, and The Merchants National have stayed ever since and also The Blochman Banking Co., under its new title of Security Bank. I for one must feel that such substantial faith is deserving of all my goodwill.

More than likely this article will fail to mention many who have given valuable assistance to The Garden, so I would like to say that it is in no sense pretending to be a valedictory reward of merit; merely a rambling reminiscence. In October, 1909, appeared an article by Lyman J. Gage, urging the support of The Floral Association for the proposed Exposition to celebrate the opening of the Panama Canal in 1915, and it is only claiming its just due to say that The California Garden gave to the Exposition the Lathhouse, still one of the most striking memorials of its existance.

Beside practically all the local experts, and perhaps some of the inexpert, The Garden has published original articles from such men as P. D. Barnhart, D. W. Coolidge, Fred Howard, Theodore Payne and many others whose names command respectful attention for anything they sign that has to do with gardens.

It is no easy job for one who contributed however little to its making to go over the back numbers of the California Garden and try to make a matter of fact resume of its being. Its pages carry along a sentiment that won't schedule; a spirit that belongs under no letter or number and this is what has made The Garden a thing by itself—given it an individuality that has put it on the shelves of libraries from Coast to Coast. More than one department of the Government carefully files it. I forget as I turn its pages that I am looking for accent points and stop to read what Blochman wrote, or the editorial that precipitated a fight with the mighty regular press the time Johnson punched holes in Jeffries boiler plate; The Garden does not boil down; it was meaty always—always itself. I like to think of The Garden as really American. It was never hampered by precedent; it just did what it had to do in the way that occurred first; in fact it came into being because the regular press frankly confessed it had no reporter who could intelligently, perhaps that ought to be sympathetically, handle mere garden stuff and it persisted because in the hearts of many is always a love and a feeling of a protective kind for the thing that has no ulterior or personal motive. We may be a little contemptuous of such, but when no one is looking we give substantial encouragement.

I say that I linger among the old pages. I commend such rambling to those who have the old volumes. You will find there much good for the garden, some for the soul, and if you are an old subscriber, a source of pride that you helped to make it.

As I feared, th's won't be a history. It has failed to drag into its net a single Presi-

dent, though it captured a Secretary of the Treasury, and really its history is written in the gardens of San Diego as they **are**, compared with as they **were**, before The Garden began its loving unselfish effort to make a geranium grow where a tin can had sprouted, and sow in the hearts of men a realization that all of life is not smokestacks.

Notes on Plants

By K. O. SESSIONS

Oxalis is a winter blooming plant that makes a bulb and becomes dormant in April, but by October it begins to grow, and rapidly, and the plant is in bloom by November first and often by October fifteenth.

The best sorts have a large, flat three-lobed leaf and bear flowers of pure white, rose pink, or light lavender. The white is the strongest grower and will kill out the rose colored one if they are planted together. The lavender is the rarest. Each should be planted separately for the best effects, and they thrive in full sun. One should dig the bulbs at once, and to obtain the best results the soil should be sifted—but try as hard as we may they cannot all be taken out of the soil. Each year they should be dug and the surplus bulbs planted in the parkings of the city. There should be a depot for their distribution. The roadways of Camp Kearny should be bordered with them, and especially around the hospitals and recreation centers. In time the place would be green and cheerful during the fall and winter with the very least amount of care. This variety is known as Oxalis purpurea and it came from Cape of Good Hope in 1812. It is not hardy where there is frost.

There is another oxalis so prolific that it becomes a pest in a garden. It is the tall growing bright yellow variety that is called the "Bermuda Buttercup" (Oxalis cernua or bolboxalis cernua). It is also a winter bloomer. Why cannot we gather bulbs of this and plant them on the highway leading to Camp Kearny as well as some in the camps around the remount station, etc., where their brightness and vigor and hardiness all through the winter will be a stimulus and a joy to the men employed in those sections, and to those enroute on the public highway?

There is a very large flowering and tall stemmed variety bearing large, bright rose-colored flowers; the foliage is large and vigorous and the bulb also very large. It is the Oxalis Bowiei—fine for pot plants for Fall and early Winter—flowering in half shade better than in sun. There is one oxalis good for hanging baskets or porch pots and boxes, that has a clustered bulbous root—a small rose-pink flower in clusters and it is evergreen and everblooming. The Bermuda oxalis is good for hanging baskets or porch plant and will bloom in either shade or sun.

Will some one assume the duty of being "Oxalis lady" for the city or Camp Kearny and endeavor to plant the parkings or roadways with their beauty?

Miss Alice Eastwood, Curator of the Botanical Department of the Academy of Sciences at San Francisco, located in Golden Gate Park, has spent the last week of June in and about San Diego. Miss Eastwood saw much of interest while here. She collected especially the Dudleyas, which are commonly called Echeverias or "hens and chickens". She is making a collection for the San Francisco herbarium of all cultivated plants and left an order with Miss Woodcock for some specimens.

She says our local palm seed of the more uncommon varieties have a limited sale. Also she desires botanical specimens of all the palms growing here.

She was very enthusiastic about the charm and beauty of Bougainvillea Braziliensis as now in full bloom on the Plaza de Panama in the Park, as seen between the formal acacia trees. At Golden Gate Park, Mr. McLaren has planted this same vine against the cement walls of the museum and placed in front Magnolias, so the mass of color will not be seen all at once.

Miss Eastwood visited Mr. Robinson's lath house for the first time and was most enthusiastic about its beauty and the wonderful growth of specimens for the time they have been planted.

The excellent new lath house at Camp Kearny was formally opened on the evening of July 18th, and will in the near future show a good growth of plants. The fountain in the center is a very substantial structure and the water spouts through holes in a very artistic rock gathered on the sea shore.

The location of the lath house is to the north of the large library theatre and back of it an excellent and well fenced vegetable garden is begun. There is a plenty of good sites for agricultural work in and about the camp and it is to be hoped that the men can utilize it—either for vegetables or flowers. The work, however, should be under a competent manager, so that few mistakes will be made and there will not be discouragement for the men or the invalids.

Park Department Notes

By J. G. MORLEY, Superintendent of City Parks

THE Park system of San Diego has an area of approximately 2000 acres, which comprises Balboa Park, 1400 acres; Torrey Pines Park, 290 acres; Soledad Park, 118 acres; Collier Park, 65 acres; La Jolla Park, 5 acres; Missions Hills Park, 5 acres; Mountain View Park, 15 acres, and a number of smaller areas set aside for Park purposes, some of which have been improved, namely New Town Park and the Plaza.

Balboa Park lies practically in the heart of the City. Few large parks being located so conveniently for the use of the public. The topography has a more varied character than that of any other park so situated. The beautiful views of the mountains, bay and ocean are unsurpassed by any city.

It has been and should, in the future, be the policy of the Board of Park Commissioners, in the further enhancement of the landscape development of the Park, to leave large areas in their natural state, including nearly all the small canyons and large areas on the mesas, preserving all the native shrubs and wild flowers which grow abundantly in those places, as what is more beautiful than the California shrubs and wild flowers during the Spring season and in the summer the greyish color of the foliage during the warm, dry weather.

In other sections of the Park development should be along general Park lines, such as the planting of trees, shrubs and flowers, large expanses of lawn with open vistas, keeping in mind the finest views when the improvements are made so they are not infringed upon, with waterfalls and small lakes in some of the canyons, constructed and planted to give a natural effect.

Ball fields, tennis courts, bowling greens, golf courses, picnic grounds, etc., should be installed so that the people of the city may reap the full enjoyment of the park. This treatment should be followed in all parks where there is room for those features of enjoyment.

The building of a fine system of roads, trails and bridle paths to wind around the hills and on the mesas would make them inviting to the people to enjoy whichever they care to use.

The climatic conditions of San Diego are excellent for park developments as nearly all the world may be drawn upon to provide suitable trees, shrubs and flowering plants and bulbs, a boon that few cities enjoy. Australia, New Zealand, South America, China, Japan and South America furnish a large number of the variety of trees, shrubs and flowers that are used in the development of the park system, as well as the native varieties of the United States and Europe. At the present we are experimenting with varieties that we receive from the Government collectors in Foreign countries.

Torrey Pines Park will always be noted as the native habitat of the Torrey Pine. This tree is found only at this place and an adjoining area, the property of Miss Scripps of La Jolla and should by all means belong to the Park system as the finest trees grown on that area. The rugged character of this park is one of its chief points of beauty and the views obtained from the hills and cliffs along the ocean are unsurpassed.

Realizing the importance of this park the Park Commissioners are having plans made for a caretaker's residence and also providing for the furnishing of refreshments and other necessary accommodations for visitors, to be created when funds are available.

The cost of improvement in the San Diego Park Commissioners are having plans made for which in nearly all sections is underlaid with hardpan, necessitating the use of powder and dynamite before planting can be done. The results obtained, I believe, have proven a success, which is attested by the growth of the trees and shrubs.

During 1914, ten tons of 40% dynamite was used. This does not include the large quantity used in the Exposition grounds. This gives you an idea what we have to contend with in our park improvements.

Since January 1, 1912, 285,092 trees and shrubs and 969,556 flowering plants and bulbs have been planted. This does not include those that were planted in the Exposition grounds prior to 1915.

The fine Stadium in Balboa Park is a feature not possessed by any other park system in the country. It is one of the centers of attraction, and is in continual use by the High School and others for athletic games, baseball, football, etc. Eight hundred and ninety-six games and events were held during 1918, including 824 for practice and 72 scheduled games and events. For the first time the Stadium was self-supporting during 1918.

During 1917-18 the Board of Park Commissioners have had a very active part in providing facilities for the Army and Navy. The occupancy of the main buildings and the Exposition grounds by the Naval Training Sta-

tion, the State section by the Marine Corps and the North section by the 21st Infantry entailed a great deal of extra work for the Commissioners and the administrative forces. Every courtesy possible was extended to each branch of the Government. Flowers were furnished by the Commission to all Army and Navy Hospitals twice a week and to Camp Kearny once a week. The Commission also furnished thousands of plants to the various camps so they could be made more home-like and cheerful and I feel sure that the efforts of the Commission have been appreciated by the officers and enlisted men.

Expenditures in the Park Department from January 1, 1912, to January 1, 1919, amounted to $864,970.04. This includes the Bond funds for general park improvement and the building of the Stadium, but does not include the Exposition Grounds prior to 1915. The following is the amount expended each year:

1912	$ 73,743.86
1913	84,544.94
1914	235,124.97
1915	129,523.51
1916	139,124.81
1917	104,477.95
1918	118,679.66

The chief income of the department comes from the tax levy, not less than 8c or more than 12c on the $100.00 valuation, which this year will provide about $91,000.00. Other sources of income will probably bring the to tal to about $100,000.00

I believe the people generally appreciate the efforts of the Park Commissioners to develop the park system, which in a few years will be the equal in beauty of any city of its size in the country.

The Vegetable Garden

By WALTER BIRCH

AUGUST is both a month of harvest and also a month of planting of such crops as we expect to mature before winter, as well as those which will continue to mature during the winter.

For instance, by planting early in the month you can still get a nice crop of sweet corn before the ground and weather become too cold. In fact, in warm locations in San Diego you can raise sweet corn so as to have it on your table round Christmas time. We recommend Golden Bantam at this time for quick results, although it is not yet too late for Oregon Evergreen.

Toward the middle or end of the month get in your first planting of peas for fall picking. The best variety for quick action is the semi-dwarf Blue Bantam, an extra early large podded pea, and supplement this a little later with a planting of Senator, sometimes called Admiral, a splendid variety that will continue to bear for weeks after they reach maturity. Plant cabbage and cauliflower, either seed or plants; also kale and lettuce, onions and parsnips, radish and beets. These will all thrive and grow to perfection as the weather gets cooler.

August is also a good month to get a nice planting of potatoes started so that you may dig before any chance of frost. Either the Burbank or White Rose are good varieties at this time.

In planting potatoes at this time of year, it is essential that the ground be thoroughly soaked, and this applies to a great extent to the other vegetables mentioned. It will not do to plant in soil that has been divested by summer conditions of its under moisture, for the potato cannot survive the condition of lack of under moisture. The potato must have an unceasing supply of sfficient moisture in order that it may make a uniform growth to maturity. Irregular watering makes irregularly formed tubers, which are always unsatisfactory.

The ideal soil is slightly sandy or loamy soil supplemented by digging in well rotted manure. Plant in rows about 5 inches deep and from I foot to 18 inches apart in the rows. Do not plant seed that is too lately dug; if you cannot get seed that shows a sprout, lay the seed away in the shade for a time, and spread it out so as to ripen and form shoots, and then plant as directed. In cutting your potatoes for seed it is better to have two good strong eyes or sprouts to each seed. If you are fond of tomatoes and have a warm, sunny location, you can set out a few plants for winter use. Set the plants two thirds in the ground and keep them moist, but not wet; a mulch of strawy manure round the plants will help. The Stone and Earliana are good varieties for winter.

In the flower garden it is time again to plant winter blooming Sweet Peas and early bulbs, such as Freesias, Watsonias, Gladiolas, Snowflake, etc. By planting now you will be rewarded by early blooms. Prepare your ground carefully and see that it is well supplied with moisture; a mulch of well rotted manure will help to keep it from baking and conserve moisture, and if your soil is heavy mix in some sand around the bulbs.

August Flower Garden

By MARY MATTHEWS

IN August get ready your ground for the winter garden. Clean off where the summer flowers have bloomed, and if water is to be had in sufficient quantity, give the ground a thorough soaking. Add manure if you can get it, if not a good sprinkling of finely ground bone-meal over the surface will answer. As soon as the soil is dry enough to work up well, turn it over a fork's depth, make the surface very fine, then sow any of the hardy winter blooming annuals you may desire. Be sure and keep the top soil moist by sprinkling after sundown until the seeds are up. You will be surprised to find how many things can be started without waiting for the winter rains, but do not attempt it without ample water supply from the hose. Failing this, it would be better to start the seeds in boxes and transplant to permanent spots later. Some gardeners do this at all times. You can give them better care, though it is more trouble than when planted in the open. Water just when needed, free from insect pests, keep the soil loose and friable, and you can transplant at your leisure,—a few at a time if you wish—always in the evening if possible. With transplanting you often get a longer season of bloom.

Watch your chrysanthemums at this time, keep them free from the plant lice by dusting with tobacco dust in the leaf clusters. Stake them if at all top-heavy, water freely, and give a dose of liquid manure every now and then. Keep suckers pinched back, also small buds not wanted.

Cosmos should be kept well watered and mulched this month and next. If it is growing too rank and tall, cut back. When commencing to bloom, disbudding has given good results. It is tedious, but where large flowers are wanted, it pays. Small cosmos plants still in the seed boxes can be put out and give good late flowers.

Asters will need great care till through blooming. Keep the soil stirred, water and manure freely, and when blooms begin to form, disbud at the axils of the leaves along the stem. Watering overhead after the flowers are open is very apt to disfigure them by causing them to turn brown.

Put your first lot of Pansy seed in boxes. After they are through the ground do not water late in the evening, as they are very likely to damp off.

Start campanulas now. Among these, Campanula medium (the Canterbury bells), C. lactiflora, and C. Persicifolia are the best for garden use and cutting for the house. The first is biennial, the others are perennial, as is also the old garden favorite, Campanula pyramidalis, "Chimney bellflower." There is also a newer one, well deserving its long name —Campanula persicifolia Moorheimii, "Moorheim's bellflower," a fine white, semi-double, and gracefully placed along the stem in large open flowers.

In the aquilegias (columbines), the long spurred hybrids are probably the best. Seeds of these are often slow in starting and want to be shaded till well up. Delphiniums are fine if you can bring them through, but they are very difficult, and snails and slugs are sure to get them after they are transplanted unless you sift coarse sand or coal ashes around them. Put in a first lot of stocks, and allow enough for many of them to come single, but you will get some good ones in the lot. Sow mignonette in a cool spot. Cineraries can be started now, or watering in the old bed will probably start a crop of seedlings.

Prune all flowering shrubs that are done blooming. Watch out for summer bugs and diseases on your growing plants. Keep them sprayed or dusted with Lime-Sulfur as needed. A small tin can with holes punched in the bottom makes a good sifter in case of an emergency. Sulfur can be shaken from a cheesecloth bag at the end of a bamboo cane.

If watsonias are crowded, lift and divide, put back at once. Do not cut the tops down to the crown. By cutting close the new growth is frequently injured. Freesias can also be lifted, divided and replaced. They do well in a north border. If you plant the so-called "Red Freesia," you will not get the true fragrant freesia. The "Red Freesia" is closely related, but is Lapeironsia cruenta, really a very pretty thing, in bloom in the early summer but lacks fragrance.

All in all, though August is a vacation month, you can make it a very busy one in the garden if you so desire.

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We also have a successful *Slug and Snail Trap.*
(One caught now means 500 less next October.)

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The Formal Garden, Balboa Park

By FIDELLA G. WOODCOCK

WHILE the beauty of the hills invites to fresh inspiration in the nearing heat of summer and the mountain springs are doing their best to enrich the wastes of soil with new bacteria from air and earth, and life itself seems to each of us but a handful of germs consuming, vying with one another for supremacy, the time is here to look within our own four square to wipe out the microbes most hostile to well being.

The formal garden, truly designed to display the perfect relation of the individual plant or flower to the whole, gives plenty of scope for a sense of fitness in working out space and color values.

The hardy Pentstemon, perhaps the most interesting of bedding plants at this season, especially Pentstemon gloxinioides, in a depth of green, surpasses all the year around the perennials that we can hardly name or even count. In nature in the wild, the Pacific Coast flora is rich in beautiful pentstemons, a type that is brought down from the high cool latitudes to a space within our parks and landscapes for shapely growth.

Pentstemon:—five stamens suggests other flowering plants denoted by beautiful stamens, the golden Hypericum, the fringe tree, the bottle brushes so closely allied to the red flowered eucalyptus of our park avenues at this season, and the veronicas with their background of evergreen acacias.

But speaking of background effect gives a touch of reality to the subject of the Formal garden in Balboa Park at the Southern California Counties Building. The upper walk is lined with some of the most graceful forms of horticultural interest, the conifers.

Cupressus torulosa, Chamaecyparis pisifera var. plumosa-aurea, a group of Cryptomeria japonica, the Japanese redwood, and on the opposite corner heavily fruited cedars, Thuja.

Shading the walk on each side are combinations of the desert gum, Eucalyptus rudis, with several variations and the hickory gum, Eucalyptus punctata, known commonly as "Leather Jacket" added to the Mediterranean pine, Pinus halepensis in the corner. The principal avenue tree of this section is Sterculia diversifolia, now in bloom. This species is often erroneously called "the bottle tree," which is really Sterculia rupestris, that has a trunk well rounded at the base. Both are related to Sterculia acerifolia, the flame tree at Mission Cliff Garden, so brilliant with scarlet flowers in the spring time before the foliage appears.

A few of the acacias are represented in the southeast corner. A. retinodes, a narrow leafed form, now in bloom, whose seeds have a red rim as distinguished from A. neriifolia, that is very similar, having a white band around the seed. These, with Acacia Baileyana, the favorite and prolific acacia of the drives, so well known throughout the south are all evergreen.

For simple economy the lavish wealth of the formal garden is lost without its well trimmed borders of box and classic myrtle, Myrtus communis, used by the ancients to make wreaths for the victors, worn, too as a mark of distinction of the chief magistrates at feasts served there. And the aroma of the leaves and fruit makes it of commercial importance in the manufacture of perfumery.

In trimmed hedges a small leafed myrtle is mingled with the classic form. It is Myrtus microphylla, a diminutive growth with long, pointed leaves. But in order to preserve the true relations of color effect repetition of the same plants differently arranged is not only desirable but essential to composition. Distinct geometrical lines often over bear with rigid outlines. A contrast of over arching branches as of Cotoneaster, pyracacantha and Duranta plumieri, a happy combination of verbena-like, violet flowers and fruit that gives it the appropriate name of the golden dewdrop and its metallic hue and green, often variegated with white foliage form a blend with other under-shrubs and border annuals. In the way of familiar names the Spanish broom, the genistas, and the viburnums more has already been said than I can give in one month's calendar. The legendry of the flower calendar sometimes over-flows with rare and far-fetched imagery. Still in the heart of all things there is a likeness, the analogy that makes harmony complete.

The Fleet Celebration

The Floral Association is to have a very appropriate part in welcoming the Pacific fleet when it honors San Diego with its presence on August 7th. It is planned that the association send a considerable quantity of cut flowers, suitably packed, to the ships soon after they enter the harbor. Contributions of flowers from the members of the Association are invited, and it is requested that they be sent to the San Diego and Arizona Ticket Office at Second and Broadway early in the morning of the day that the fleet arrives. It is especially desired that a number of the boxes of flowers which will be sent consist of Statice and perhaps cut blooms of Eucalyptus ficifolia—the first because of its keeping qualities, the second because it is not only beautiful, but typical of Southern California.

The July Meeting

THE regular monthly meeting of the Floral Association was held at Mrs. M. German's, 1860 Third street, on the evening of July 15th. This month marks the tenth anniversary of our organization, and our meeting at Mrs. German's seemed very fitting, as it was at her home that the Association met the first time the members assembled at a private home.

Mr. Gorton, the recently elected president, presided, and after the minutes of the previous meeting, were read and approved, he outlined the policy which the new board of directors hopes to follow in relation to the "California Garden". They will endeavor, among other things, to have the magazine in the mail by the first of each month. This is for the mutual convenience of every one concerned, and contributors may know just when their articles will appear. When the issue has been delayed in the past, the articles would not infrequently be out of season, by the time they were printed. The president stated that six pages of advertising are necessary to pay actual expenses of publication and it is to be hoped that this amount or more may be obtained so that funds for the Association will not have to be drawn upon to meet the magazine's obligations.

The new slogan is to be "Keep the Floral Association Before the Public." Committees which are in process of appointment are six in number, viz. show, publicity, program, finance, membership and Camp Kearny committees.

Mrs. Greer, who has practically taken entire charge of the sending of flowers to the Camp Kearny Hospital during the last year, spoke of the notes of appreciation which were received, and told instances of interest concerning those who brought flowers for the boys. It is to be regretted that so few of the many boxes sent are given by Floral Association members. The Association should take pride in providing as many flowers on Thursdays as possible.

The subject of the Fall Show was discussed and a tentative date was set for the first Saturday and Sunday in September. The awarding of prizes was touched upon, but action deferred until our next meeting, so that the opinions of more members might be expressed than were present.

Mr. Hieatt moved that the board of directors be authorized to represent the Association with an exhibit at the County Fair to be held the last four days in September. The motion was carried, also a motion relative to drawing up a resolution indorsing the recent action of the council making the planting of street trees obligatory.

The treasurer's report was read by Mr. Gorton in the absence of Mr. Fleming. There is a balance of $308.33 in the treasury. A report was received on the two directors' meetings held recently, telling of the principal matters which had been handled. The directors appointed Mr. F. L. Hieatt as a member of the board to succeed Mr. Robinson, who found it impossible to serve. At Mr. Robinson's request, Mr. Gorton was chosen to succeed him as editor of the "California Garden." Mr. Fleming was elected Treasurer of the Association and business manager of the "Garden", Mr. Hieatt as Vice-President of the Association and Miss Leda Klauber as Secretary.

A request was made by the editor of the "Garden" that the Association members take notes on unusual or especially meritorious trees, shrubs or flowers which they observe in their neighbor's yards or elsewhere, and send in for publication. He stated that a "Questions and Answers" column is to be instituted soon to furnish advice by experts on perplexing questions of garden management.

LEDA KLAUBER, Secretary.

Michigan to Plant Roadside Trees

The Michigan Legislature recently passed a law to encourage the planting of nut-bearing and other food-producing shade trees along State trunk highways and other roads built in that State. The law makes it the duty of the State Highway Commission and the State Commission of Agriculture to look after the setting out of such trees and of the State Agricultural College and the Public Dominion to distribute stock at nominal cost to local officials and private individuals who will set it out. Trees are to be planted at intervals of 20 to 40 feet along the roads. Injuring roadside trees or affixing notices of any kind to them is made a misdemeanor punishable by fine of $1 to $25 and imprisonment of not more than thirty days. This law is in keeping with the policy of encouraging tree planting announced by the United States Department of Agriculture, the department of the Federal Government that administers the Federal aid road law, in co-operation with the States.

Plant Immigrants

By G. R. GORTON

THE human population of these United States of ours is a composite affair, drawing upon almost all the countries of the world for material. The result, through proper restrictions imposed by our government and enforced through the various subordinate bureau of the Department of Immigration, has, we flatter ourselves, been gratifying. By this means new blood and new brains have been brought to us during the past decades until we hold an enviable and unique place among the nations of the world. The cosmopolitan character of the army which is now in process of demobilization has spoken for itself in virile and efficient man-power.

Similarly, through the United States Bureau of Plant Introduction, a subordinate department of the Department of Agriculture, "plant immigrants" are brought here to add impetus and variety to our great horticultural and agricultural industries.

Under the leadership of David Fairchild, "Agricultural Explorer in Charge," a staff of experts both in the United States and foreign countries is engaged in seeking out plant material which looks promising for adaptation to the horticultural and agricultural needs of this country.

Explorers and collaborators are constantly sending in plants, seeds, cuttings, bulbs, etc., which in turn are "assigned" to one of the half dozen field stations maintained in the United States to be propagated from and studied. From these stations, after a sufficient quantity of plants have been propagated, distributions for trial are made to various growers and horticulturists throughout the United States, whose "pedigree" and qualifications are on file at the office of the department at Washington. As these "Plant Experimenters," as they are termed, report their experience with material which has been furnished them, data is available covering the performance of these plants under the various conditions in all parts of the United States. The diversity of their field of endeavor is considerable, and some of the recent and most interesting introductions will be commented on in this column from time to time.

In May of this year, an **Amorphophallis,** (A. konjac) or "konjaku," a "brother" of a well-known ornamental aroid known by such pleasing appellations as Devil's Tongue, Snake Palm, etc. This relative, however, which the department has imported from Japan, yields a starch which is an important article of food with the Japanese, but is to be used in this country for the purpose of treating aeroplane wings.

A new and promising **Berberis,** (B. polyantha) has found its way here from Surrey, England, the plants being presented by Mr. Fred J. Chittenden, Director of the Royal Horticultural Society's Gardens. Its habitat, however, is West China, but it seems to take kindly to its adopted country. This species is described as deciduous, attaining a height of six to ten feet, thorny, and producing drooping panicles of yellow flowers, sometimes over fifty blooms in a single cluster.

Several interesting circumstances surround the introduction of **Kokia drynarioides** from the Hawaiian Islands. It seems that up to a very few months ago there had been but one tree of this species in existence, and this tree had been "declared dead," but in a final last gasp, managed to produce a few mature seeds on one branch only. Some of this seed was collected and forwarded to the department by Mr. J. Rock of Honolulu, and it is considered to be a fortunate occurrence that complete extinction of the species was prevented, as the government is now considering its possible value for hybridization with the commercial cotton plant.

K. drynaroides, however, from an ornamental standpoint, is a tree of striking and unique appearance, described by Mr. Rock as "A tree four to eight meters high, woody throughout with large lobed leaves and bright red flowers of silky texture, occurring singly in the axils of the uppermost leaves. The thick, woody capsule about an inch in length, contains several obovoid seeds which are thickly covered with reddish brown hairs."

An assortment of cuttings from thirteen varieties of **Prunus serrulata,** Flowering Cherry, has been received from Yokohoma, several of which are very beautiful types.

From Nigeria comes seed from one of the Bignoniaceae, **Spathodea campanulata** or **"Oruru"** as it is called by the natives. This species is, as is the entire genus, arborescent in type, and is described as "a strikingly handsome tree twenty to seventy feet or more high with a smooth white stem without branches for a considerable height from the ground, and a luxuriant, conical head of foliage, all studded with large flowers of a bright orange scarlet.

Parks a Necessity

(*Continued from July number*)

"God Almighty was not only the first great landscape architect, but He planned and laid out the first pleasure park. Go to your Bibles and read, 'And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, putting into it every tree that is pleasant to the sight'—What a wealth of bloom must have been there, and how ladened the air with perfume—and every tree that was 'good for food.' And the Lord located this first park, as the sacred writer tells us, at the four forks of the river that ran thru' and watered this garden of Eden. He knew the value of river banks, and you may be sure He did not leave them in the unsightly condition of those in many of our Indiana cities.

"Then when He had beautified and completed the first pleasure park in recorded history, the Bible record says, 'He took the man he had created and put him in the garden of Eden to dress it and keep it,' and thus Adam became the world's first park superintendent. You see, therefore, that we have a very early example and precedent for parks acquisition and improvement. With only Adam around and he about to get an office, the Lord probably escaped all the criticism and abuse which are heaped upon the heads of park commissioners of our day.

"No nation of antiquity was ever great that did not build parks and beautify streams and water courses and the cities of Europe which attract the golden stream of travel of the civilized world today are the cities which has expended the most in making themselves beautiful to look upon. Yet there are people in my city, and doubtless in all the larger cities of our State, who will spend a thousand dollars and three months of time to cross the ocean and wander admiringly thru the parks or along the boulevards of Paris or Berlin and then come back home and howl a twelve-month over a special assessment of $5 to provide a park, or to improve one already acquired in his home city.

"Until within the past few decades our American towns and cities were regarded as mere accidents, temporary places of trade and barter, a sort of short-lived, make-shift, rather doubtful place of abode of people who didn't take kindly to the hard work of the farm. That they were to be permanent; that they were to grow rapidly; that they were to become the great centers of the culture and refinement of our people and the highest expression of American civilization, seems never to have occurred to the ordinary citizen, and no class of our citizenship seems to have had less comprehension of the future of American cities than those who dwelt in them. Let me give you a few illustrations of this. New York, our country's great metropolis, called 'Bowling Green,' at the foot of Broadway, and it contained nearly one whole acre, and it still exists, somewhat lessened in area by the widening of the streets about it, a fit expression of the conception of the people of that day as to what New York was likely to become. But New York was fortunate in its burial places. Death had more foresight than life, and it made necessary cemeteries, and as in later years the city grew about these, the bodies there interred were removed to another point farther up the island, and these in turn were again removed to a more distant location, and as these changes were made, these homes of the dead were fashioned into parks for the living, and only because of this does New York have Washington Square, Union Square, Madison Square, and St. John's Park, all of them former burial places, the only parks that great city has from the Battery to Central Park, a distance of many miles. The time came when New York decided to build a fine city hall. It went a half mile up Broadway to Chambers Street for a location, faced the while marble building down Broadway and then constructed the rear, the up Broadway part of the building, with cheaper brown and stone, on the supposition that the city would never have to extend beyond that point and nobody would ever live to the north of it to see that brown stone wall. Now, forty-nine fiftieths of the people of that city live back of that city hall. And that was New York's conception, in the early years of the last century, of what she was to be, and it was fifty years later before her forward looking men carried through, against much opposition, the plan to secure to the city her far-famed Central Park. Many men yet living will remember the sneers and ridicule heaped upon those who named it 'Central Park,' on the ground that the city would never extend to it, let alone around and beyond it. Yet there now is already as much of the city to the north as to the south of it.

"The men who laid out Fort Wayne gave to the city 118 city lots lying between Calhoun and Barr Streets, for the location of the court house and other county purposes. Here was a splendid opportunity for a civic center, on which could have been grouped, with beautiful surroundings, the Court House, City Hall, Post Office and Public Library. But a certain Board of Allen County Commissioners said 'Why keep all this ground, the county will never need it and it can be sold for several hundred dollars,' and so they

sold it and consequently Allen County's Million Dollar Court House stands upon a piece of ground 150x312, instead of in the center of an entire square, as it otherwise would have done. That ground, thus sold for a few hundred dollars, is now worth millions of dollars. And that was Allen County's estimate at that time of what Fort Wayne was ever likely to be.

"At one time the men who built through Fort Wayne what is now the Pennsylvania railroad, owned all the property north of their tracks and west of Calhoun to Baker Street. Without foresight they said, 'We can plat this ground from Calhoun Street to Fairfield Avenue and get several hundred dollars for it. The road will never need it; let us sell it,' and they did and only recently have had to buy it back at an expense of hundreds of thousands of dollars. That was the estimate of those earlier railroad men of what Fort Wayne would ever be.

"Two gentlemen stood in the street at Indianapolis not far from the Union Depot. Said one, 'My grandfather once offered to give some forty acres of ground just in front of where we stand to the City of Indianapolis for a park. The city felt it would cost too much to care for it and so refused it. It is worth fifteen or twenty millions of dollars now.' That was the conception that Indianapolis had then of what she was to be.

"Now, are we of today any wiser than our forefathers? Have we learned anything from the experience of others? Have we any more foresight than those who have gone before? It is exceedingly doubtful. Although the last census shows that over 40% of our people already live in our towns and cities, we are still, as a rule, planning only for today and acting as though we expected our cities not to outlive the present century. We are still measuring the future by the spans of our hands. If a few far-sighted leaders have come to the realization that our cities will continue to exist for a hundred or a thousand years to come and seek to induce action with some regard for the future, they halted and their efforts frustrated by unenlightened public sentiment, which blocks the way to needed and wise action. Not long since a prominent American visiting in Paris, France, was being told of a coming further beautification of that city, at an expense of one hundred million of dollars. 'But where is all this money to come from?' he asked. 'From the pocketbooks of American tourists,' was the Frenchman's reply.

"At Fort Wayne we have always felt that it was the duty of our Board of Park Commissioners to endeavor to lead public sentiment, not to tag after it; to move somewhat in advance of public opinion, and to seek to create a better understanding among the people of the tremendous material and social benefits which come to every large city in the possession of an extensive, well balanced and an equitably distributed system of boulevards, playgrounds and parks.

(*Continued next month*)

A Step Forward

On July 14th the City Council unanimously passed the following resolution, introduced by Councilman Heilbron:

RESOLUTION NO. 24677

"BE IT RESOLVED, by the Common Council of the City of San Diego, as follows:

"That the Manager of Operation and the Superintendent of Streets be, and they are hereby instructed to make the necessary arrangements to provide for the planting of trees along the new Highway from Torrey Pines to a point on India street to be determined, and

"That the Manager of Operation be, and he is hereby requested to confer with the Board of Park Commissioners with the end in view that the said Board of Park Commissioners furnish the necessary trees, and also,

"That, hereafter, when street improvements are contemplated, the Manager of Operation and the Superintendent of Streets be, and they are hereby instructed to include the planting of trees in the preceedings for the proposed work."

Our City Council, by this act, officially recognizes the fact that geraniums are necessary to the process of attracting smokestocks. It is almost a truism that a business man who comes to this or any other city to investigate industrial possibilities is very apt to judge the progressiveness of the city at least partially by what has been done in the way of sane and systematic beautification. In this day and age, a city lacking an adequate park system, attractive streets, and street lighting, suitable public buildings, etc., is almost certain to be classed as "backward", to put it mildly.

This comment is based on the purely commercial aspect of the matter. Add to that the ennobling and uplifting effect upon the residents of a city that proper and consistent beautification would have, and it leaves the "conscientious objector" to all forms of civic improvement of an ornamental nature without a leg to stand upon.

Let us be broad enough to advocate the harmonizing of the geranium idea with the effort to attract smokestacks, so one will supplement the other.

The California Garden

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G. L. Fleming, Manager
Office, 945 Seventh St., San Diego, Cal.

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The August Meeting

The regular meeting of the Floral Association will be held August 19th at 8 p. m. at the home of Miss Coulter, 3162 Second street. Mr. J. G. Morley, Superintendent of City Parks, will talk on "Planting Seed for Fall and Winter Flowering."

The Fall Flower Show

The date of the Fall Show is being tentatively considered as September 6th and 7th. The mooted question of "cups or no cups" has emerged from dormancy, and is again before us. What the show committee would like to have answered for them is whether the members of the Floral Association are of the opinion that if the custom of offering cups as trophies is renewed, it will bring about the much desired result of encouraging a large number of owners of small gardens to grow flowers with the idea of having blooms to exhibit, or whether the said owners of small gardens will feel that they are competing with the skill of professional gardeners (so called) employed by exhibitors who do not do their own gardening. As we understand it, this question relates only or primarily at least to the amateur class, as there seems to exist no doubt in the minds of those who have studied the various aspects of the matter that the number of exhibits in the professional class would be much augmented if cups were offered.

Be ready to give your views on the subject at the next business meeting of the Association.

So that the committee may know where prospective exhibit material is, Mr. Hieatt, Chairman of the Show committee, would appreciate it if members of the Floral Association would report to him the names of friends or neighbors who might be prevailed upon to exhibit from their gardens. Mr. Hieatt may be reached by phone at Hillcrest 836, or by mail, 1825 Sheridan Ave. There is an excellent opportunity afforded to members of the Floral Association to show their loyalty to the cause of good gardens by exhibiting blooms from their own gardens and urging their neighbors to do likewise. It contributes more to the success and therefore the real purpose of the shows to have many exhibits, even though they be modest ones, from many people than to have just as many flowers in bulk, but from a few people. The logic of this is plain.

Tenth Anniversary *of the* "California Garden"

The July number of the Garden marked the tenth anniversary of its publication. In July, 1909, the magazine made its debut. It is the oldest magazine of its kind on this coast, and it is probably safe to say that it is the **only** magazine which has its being by reason of the purely voluntary effort of its entire staff, the only expense being the actual cost of the mechanical part of its publication, viz., the printing. We believe in those ten years it has made a place for itself, a place which no other magazine exactly fills, and has been a real impetus to stimulate the growing of "worth while" gardens.

Flowers and Flower Boxes *for* Camp Kearny

Pasteboard boxes are needed for cut flowers which are sent to Camp Kearny each week by the Floral Association. These may be delivered to the San Diego and Arizona ticket office in care of Mrs. M. A. Greer, chairman of the committee having this work in charge. The type of boxes preferred for this purpose is the sort used for suits or dresses, or by the florists for cut flowers.

Flowers to fill these boxes will also be needed. A great many are now being contributed by interested persons who are not members of the Floral Association. Since the Floral Association is being credited with carrying on this good work, a certain pride in and responsibility for the activities of their own organization will prompt them to see to it that their contributions do not fall below those of these faithful ones who, though they do not happen to be members of the association, believe in and give their active support to work of this sort. Let us not be slackers.

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